

CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION IN YANGTZE RIVER BASIN: LEGAL DIMENSIONS AND INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

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ABSTRACT

The world's current river basin system is designed and operated under the assumption of stationary, which means natural systems fluctuate within an unchanging envelope of variability. However, this assumption is compromised by human disturbance in river basins and such external influences as climate change. In order to adapt to the impacts of climate change, the current legal systems of Yangtze river must be adjusted. This paper arranges legal institutions of Yangtze river such as public access to risk information, scientific inquiry and governmental risk decision-making, risk and river basin planning, administrative and judicial relief of climate change victims ect, through identifying legal dimensions of river basin adaptation including precautionary principle and principle of no-regret, legal implication of risk management of river basin, human rights and relief of climate change victims of Yangtze river. All these are aimed to promote the sustainability of Yangtze river in the context of climate change.

PALAVRA-CHAVE: climate change adaptation, river basin, legal system